United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/923
2 July 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General appeals for release of Israeli hostage in Kashmir.

- Secretary-General reviews international problems with Chancellor of Germany.

- Secretary-General appoints Special Representative on human rights situation in Cuba.

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The spokeswoman for Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar today issued a statement saying that the Secretary-General had appealed to the captors of Yair Yitzaki, an Israeli national being held hostage in Kashmir, to release him immediately and unharmed. The statement said that in the Secretary-General's view, no aim could be furthered by the taking of innocent hostages.

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On the second day of his official visit to Germany, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met today with Chancellor Helmut Kohl for a general review of international problems.

The Secretary-General and the Chancellor discussed the problems of the Near and Middle East, including implementation of United Nations resolutions on the Persian Gulf; the situation in Yugoslavia and its latest developments; Cyprus; Central America; Korea, in view of the request for admission to the United Nations by both North and South Korea; and Cambodia and the future role of the United Nations in a possible solution. The discussion also covered problems of the environment and relations between developing and developed countries, with the Secretary-General stressing once again his concern about the lack of a North/South dialogue. The role of Germany in the United Nations and its participation in various United Nations activities were also reviewed.

Earlier in the day, the Secretary-General met with leaders of the German opposition parties in the Bundestag. With Hans-Jochen Vogel, outgoing

(more)

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Chairman of the Social Democratic Party, the Secretary-General described United Nations activities in the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the Persian Gulf war. Mr. Vogel explained the position of his party on German participation in United Nations peace-keeping and the Secretary-General reaffirmed his position -- that while he welcomed German participation in United Nations activities and was gratified by Germany's contribution of logistical and other support to United Nations operations such as the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia and the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), he did not wish to interfere in the present debate going on in Germany about the participation of the country in United Nations peace-keeping. They also exchanged views on the situation in Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General left Bonn for Geneva at the conclusion of his official visit to Germany.

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The Secretary-General has appointed a national of Colombia, Rafael Rivas Posada as Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Cuba.

The appointment comes in response to a request by the Commission on Human Rights for a special representative to maintain direct contact with the Government and citizens of Cuba. The Commission took that decision in 1989 following a mission to Cuba to investigate the situation.

Mr. Rivas Posada has previously served the Secretary-General as his Special Representative. From 1982 to 1985 he was the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Uruguay. In 1985 he served as Independent Expert on Paraguay for the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. Rivas Posada served as his country's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva from 1989 to 1990, and Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations in New York from 1975 to 1977. In 1978, he was Chief of the delegation to the thirtieth regular session of the General Assembly.

From 1986 to 1989 Mr. Rivas Posada was Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Economic Community.

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